



Requirements for the Major:

The existing LAS Concentration has been discontinued. But already enrolled students can still graduate with a Concentration in 2011. The new Major is effective fall 2010 and will require 10 courses with a **minimum of 30 credits**.

1. **Language Requirement (2 courses):**

In addition to satisfying the College requirement of Intermediate Spanish or Intermediate Portuguese language, students will **have to satisfy 2 courses of advanced Spanish or advanced Portuguese language or literature courses**. These advanced courses can be taken at Villanova or can be taken during the Semester Abroad in Latin America. Native speakers of Spanish and Portuguese may ask for the language waiver. If granted, however, they will have to take two more electives instead, bringing the total number of electives to 5 courses.

2. **One Capstone Seminar**

This capstone course is envisioned to be an interdisciplinary and team-taught seminar on Latin America from a global perspective (LAS-3950 or LAS-6500). The program currently offers this every spring. Generally, 7 to 8 faculty members explore multiple Latin American themes from their respective disciplinary perspectives in the course.

3. **Three Broad thematic courses (3 courses)**

a. **One course in the Humanities.**

Students will have to take at least one

course from the disciplines in the humanities, such as communication, culture, literature, philosophy, and religion. Any one of the currently offered courses on Latin American religions (THL-5990, THL-3740, or THL-4600), culture and civilization (SPA-2143, SPA-2212 or SPA-3412), philosophy (PHI-2160) and literature (ENG-2041, SPA-2213, SPA 2214 or SPA-2215) may satisfy this requirement. More courses may be added to this list with approval from the curriculum committee.

b. **One course in the Social Sciences.**

Students are required to take one course from the disciplines of economics, political science, sociology, environmental studies, and psychology to offer a unique but cross-disciplinary perspective on the general theme of "social transformations in Latin America." Any one of the currently offered courses on Latin American economy (ECO-4220 or ECO-4200), politics (PSC-4875 or PSC-5800), and societies (SOC-3600, SOC-3750, or SOC-4000) may satisfy this requirement. More courses may be added to this list with approval from the curriculum committee.

c. **One course in Latin American History.**

One required history course (e.g., HIS-4415, HIS-4420, HIS 4410, or HIS-4495) must focus on either the pre-Columbian, colonial, or post-colonial period of one country or several countries of the region. More courses may be added to this list with approval from the curriculum committee.

4. **Research Methods (1 course)**

One required course in research methods must be taken in any of the participating departments (e.g., ECO-3132, SPA-3950,

HIS-5501, COM-4001, COM-4002, PSC-1900, PSY-4050, SOC-5200, SOC-5300, or SOC-5400) disciplines at Villanova on the condition that students focus on a research theme about Latin America. Students are expected to take this course at Villanova. Any alternative arrangement, such as opting for a Field Research course during the semester abroad, will require specific prior approval of the Director. This requirement satisfies the College's sophomore/junior research requirement.

5. Electives (3 courses)

Students can take any 3 of the courses listed under the list of elective courses on the program website or advertised in other printed material. Students are strongly encouraged to consider an "Internship" (LAS-5000) and/or an "Independent Study" (LAS-6000) as part of these electives.

6. Study Abroad (one semester)

Students are **mandated** to spend a semester abroad at a university in Latin America and can satisfy multiple requirements of acquiring linguistic skills, cultural immersion, and course requirements. From a semester abroad, a maximum of 4 courses may be counted towards the major. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the semester abroad requirement during the sophomore or junior year.

Note: The Study Abroad semester may satisfy up to 2 electives and 2 advanced language courses or up to 2 electives, 1 thematic course, and 1 research methods.

Learning Objectives and outcomes:

Upon completing the LAS Major, students will be able to:

1. Write research papers on Latin America with the sensitivity to the peculiarities of the region.
2. Converse about the major economic, political, and social problems bedeviling the region of Latin America.
3. Speak Spanish or Portuguese language with fluency.
4. Acquire knowledge and linguistic skills appropriate for jobs in international, governmental, multilateral, and non-governmental agencies focused on the region
5. Engage in policy relevant discussions and debates about US-Latin American relations.

Students' learning outcomes:

Learning outcomes can be assessed by a comprehensive electronic portfolio, which will contain:

1. An essay of 5 pages in Spanish or Portuguese language on the most interesting aspect of Latin America in the student's opinion (during the advanced Spanish/Portuguese language/literature courses).
2. A video/DVD presentation on the effects of cultural immersion on the student's worldview (upon return to campus after a semester overseas).
3. Will present a research paper in the annual Latin American Studies conference of its study abroad returnees in May of each year (junior or senior year).
4. A comprehensive bibliography on a subject of contemporary or historical relevance. This will demonstrate the student's research skills (from literature review section of the research methods course).
5. Submit the best 2 research papers of at least 20 pages each to the archive of Latin American Studies (from the thematic, research methods, and capstone courses).
6. Take an Exit Survey in the senior year.